

Lazy life for croc

● *From previous page*
Crocodiles, hatched in incubators, have a life of ease for about three years — then they could become a pair of boots or a chic handbag.

Until then they dine on feral pig, scrub cattle, fresh fish and the carcass of skinned brethren.

There are weekly visits from tourists but mostly the crocs are encouraged just to laze around.

"Any exertion uses up energy — and we want all their effort to go into growing," explains field officer Don Morris.

Meanwhile, the popularity of alligator steak in the US has prompted another thought: why not crocodile steak as an added tourist attraction?

It's an ironic turnaround for this fierce predator.



ABOVE: HAROLD RAMIS... the ghostbuster.
RIGHT: The ghostbusters in battle with spectres.

GHOSTBUSTERS



You may not realize

but the shoes you are wearing may be no better for your feet than a concrete brick.

The majority of shoes produced today are made by stretching the upper around an artificial foot shape called a "last".

The problem then presents itself in that the shape of the last is a compromise approximation of the average person's foot and very rarely will it match an individual foot exactly.

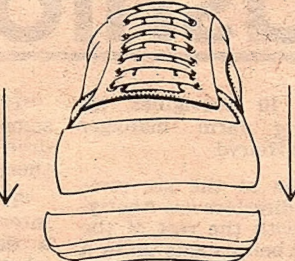
On the other hand rivers "sport" shoes are produced by the revolutionary new "zendrini" side stitch construction method whereby the upper is stitched directly onto the sole without any stretching.

The result is a shoe that is far more consistent in shape and fit, the leather in the shoe retaining its full suppleness to stretch naturally to the footshape of the person who wears the shoe, rather than an artificial foot shape approximation.

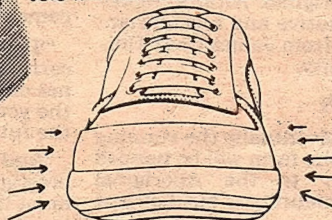


Sport Spectator

Upper is placed into the sole without any form of stretching.



The upper is then stitched to the sole with two rows of lock stitch.



rivers from \$54.99 at **FAYS** shoe stores

They may not be as stoic as Max von Sydow's character in *The Exorcist*.

By MICHAEL O'REGAN
in New York

But if you're looking for a side-splitting piece of mayhem and magic, who ya gonna call... Ghostbusters!

The world-wide smash hit opened in Queensland cinemas last week.

It stars the comic genius of Dan Aykroyd, Bill Murray and Harold Ramis and is guaranteed to lift anyone's spirits.

Ghostbusters, a film industry phenomena, is already one of the top five money-spinners in American cinema history, grossing more than \$200 million in just 14 weeks.

It is a refreshing, spontaneous movie combining humor and the latest in special effects.

The story portrays Aykroyd, Murray and Ramis as three extraordinarily bright, slightly off-beat university para-psychologists who lose their research grant and begin their own business — as ghostbusters.

And their unique talents create a contemporary comedy classic as they are called on to rid New York of all sorts of chilling phenomena and poltergeist activity.

Ghostbusters is the brainchild of Aykroyd, who wrote the first draft of the script himself before calling on his two co-stars and director Ivan Reitman to help polish it.

Aykroyd, a card-carrying member of the American Society for Psychic Research, believes ghosts and humor are linked forever in film history by comedians such as Laurel and Hardy, Abbott and Costello and Martin and Lewis.

"All comedy performers have dealt with ghosts in some of their work," he said.

"We're just doing the modern version of the old-time ghost movies."

"The only difference is we have a little more theory, perhaps a little more science and a lot more technology than our predecessors."

That technology was crafted into the very real and eerie scenes in the movie by Oscar-winning special effects supervisor Richard Edlund.

There is little of that *Star Trek* gloss about the

effects but they are realistic.

Edlund, who worked on the *Star Wars* trilogy and *Raiders Of The Lost Ark*, was responsible for 'breathing life' into the creatures and ghosts which help make *Ghostbusters* a memorable film.

He and production designer John de Cuir used the magic of movie-making to build a 20m-high set surrounded by a back-lit 360-degree panorama of New York on their Burbank lot.

"The top of the Central Park West building (where a lot of the action takes place) is probably the most complicated we've ever built," de Cuir said.

"We've had some like Cleopatra where we built cities and barges all over the world and we've had *The Agony And The Ecstasy* where we had to construct the Sistine chapel."

"But with this one, against the great tapestry of New York — the real New York — we had to live up to it in Hollywood on the studio sets."

Ghostbusters is a reunion for many of the prime movers — the three stars are former Saturday Night Live alumni and, according to Bill Murray, that familiarity provided the magic.

He said: "I'm very comfortable working with the same group of people."

"I'm comfortable because they all owe me money, so if they are working, I know I've got a good shot at getting some of it back."

"These guys are goofy — they always have been. Half the fun is when the camera isn't rolling."

Despite the sometimes chilling scenes, *Ghostbusters* is not like other comic supernatural movies in that it doesn't rely on lily-livered lead characters to get the laughs — such as Jerry Lewis, Bob Hope or Don Knotts played.

Here, the main characters treat ghosts and goblins as everyday, occupational hazards.

As Harold Ramis notes: "We're simply janitors cleaning up someone else's mess — it's a completely mundane attitude towards the supernatural."

● See Entertainment for movie review.